

SPRING EDITION 2006

# SUSTAINER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND



**WOMEN  
IN WAR**

**TASK FORCE  
BANDIT**

WHO ARE THE BANDITS?

**MASS CASUALTY  
EXERCISE**

PREPARATION PREVENTS CHAOS

**LIBRARY OPENING**

BOOKS LINK GENERATIONS



# SUSTAINER

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FILLING VITAL ROLES DURING WAR

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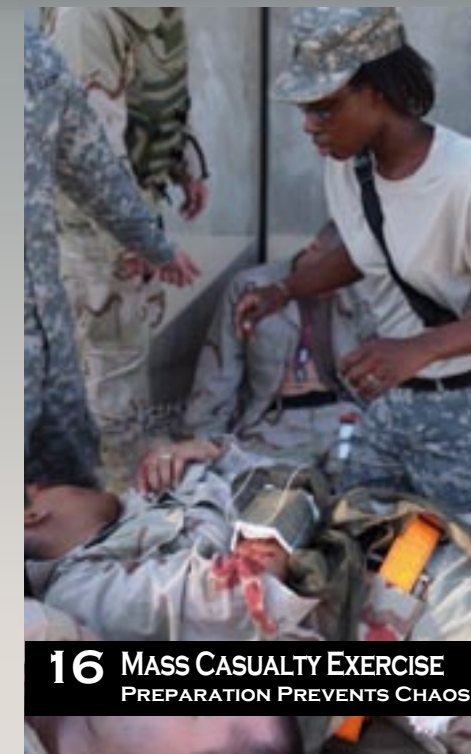
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*On the Cover: Spc. Carmen Villa, 3rd Corps Support Command commanding general's personal security detail (photo by Spc. Mary Ferguson)*

*(photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons, 4th SB Public Affairs)*

The 1st Motorized Transportation Regiment returns to Camp Taji from the unit's first independent supply mission March 23.



**16 MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE**  
PREPARATION PREVENTS CHAOS



**ON THE BACK**

VISIT THE 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND WEBSITE AT [WWW.3COSCOM.ARMY.MIL](http://WWW.3COSCOM.ARMY.MIL).  
THE SUSTAINER MAGAZINE, EDITION 2006



## Attitude Determines Altitude

As we recognize our successes and learn from our experiences, I challenge every Soldier, as I challenge myself, to appreciate the incredible power that thrives within our "attitudes."

I must admit that it took me many years and numerous duty positions to finally realize I do not have the ability to 'control' anything in life except my attitude!

Notice I did not say control "everything," I said "anything," except my attitude. It is the ONE thing in life I can control! Life is not about how many good or bad things happen to me, as much as it is about how I deal with the good and the bad events.

Once I started looking at my life in this manner, I can honestly say I have many, many more great days than not.

I believe "my attitude determines my altitude" and I can soar above the "ankle biters" that try to bring me down.

I also believe that there are more people than not who are trying to do good, trying to do what is right and who are dedicated, selfless and committed.

So, my personal goal is to have an "attitude of gratitude" and make sure I thank people for their contributions, their service and their 'make it happen' attitudes.

I still have a long way to go to get this right every day, but by recognizing the power of a positive attitude, life is so much more enjoyable.

I have heard that it actually takes more energy to wear a sad or mean face than it does to just relax the muscles in your face and smile!

Sometimes I need to look in the mirror and ask myself, "Does my face say 'Yes'?" Do my face and my actions reflect an encouraging, nurturing attitude or a 'large and in charge' attitude?

I think our world would be much better place if we all understood the effect our attitude has on others and has on getting the mission accomplished.

Think about our Warrior Ethos—

"I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade."

Our Warrior Ethos is all about our attitude towards soldiering and serving. The great news is each of us controls our own attitude!

*Rebecca S. Halstead  
Brigadier General  
Commanding General*



## Serve with Pride, Honor, Distinction



"I love what I do and I do what I love, being a Soldier." The most important ingredients in well run units throughout the Army are leaders who understand their jobs and do them well.

Leadership is the ability to influence people to follow you by providing direction and purpose through motivation, motivation that directly contributes to a unit's morale. What makes a unit great is its ability to accomplish its mission to standard while at the same time maintaining high morale.

The motivation side involves guiding Soldiers in accomplishing their missions to standard and requires that Soldiers believe in their leadership, confident that their leaders are going to take care of them and their families.

Leaders also prepare their Soldiers for future success by employing the three pillars of leadership development: leaders must train their Soldiers, protect their Soldiers' time, and provide their Soldiers with the resources necessary to accomplish the mission.

Train your Soldiers to be and succeed as a fighting team by using the Chief of Staff of the Army's 40 warrior tasks and 9 battle drills. Train your team to be technically and tactically proficient so they become a combat multiplier on the battlefield.

The 3rd COSCOM Soldiers must be trained in their military occupation specialty in order to provide the right equipment to the right unit at the right time, on time, while supporting combat arms warriors.

Every day, 3rd COSCOM Soldiers accomplish great things across the CENTCOM and USAREUR areas of operation with their service to our Army and our nation. Ours is the type of dedicated service that history will record for the future generations to follow.

Some may say they could have done it, but the 3rd COSCOM Soldiers who reflect the "Sustaining the Line" COSCOM motto, can say they actually did it, and they did it well. In the future, someone will ask whom you served with in battle.

Tell them, with pride, that you served with the mighty 3rd COSCOM and that you served with honor and distinction.

The total debt to the Soldier will never be paid with money, but it will be paid with the pride and respect of having served with their fellow Soldiers.

*Willie C. Tennant Sr.  
Command Sergeant Major  
7th Corps Support Group*

**N**o one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

**C**ompetence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

**O**fficers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders



## Women in War

Welcome to the Spring 2006 Sustainer magazine. Our goal in this edition, as in every edition, is to provide a wide variety of information for and about the 3rd Corps Support Command and the Soldiers, civilians and family members who make up this proud unit.

As classrooms and communities celebrated Women's History Month in March, 3rd Corps Support Command female Soldiers continued penning their names onto the lists of those worthy of future honors. *Women in War* recognizes the influences of the past, while highlighting future generations of women warriors.

Experience preparation for chaos in *Mass Casualty Exercise*, as we take you through the recent installation training.

Meet the Bandits, learn the what, why and how of COSCOM's unique *Task Force Bandit*.

Patriotism and generosity fill the pages of *The Library Project*, as

we take you through the birth of a library on LSA Anaconda.

Soldiers and veterans gather for a generation-linking event in Passau. Read about this bonding experience in *Linking Generations*.

Our regular columns from the Family Readiness Group, Equal Opportunity Advisor, Chaplain, Inspector General, Career Counselor and Safety Officer are overflowing with information.

This edition's double-sided

poster features Task Force Bandit and a dedication to COSCOM's Women in War.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to make a submission for a future edition of Sustainer magazine, please contact us at

the address to the right.

We ask that you keep the Soldiers and civilians who are serving in harm's way around the world, and their family members, in your thoughts. If you are one of them, we thank you for your service and sacrifice!

*Spc. Mary E. Ferguson  
Editor/Layout & Design  
3rd Corps Support Command*



**Letter to the Editor** Let us know what you think of the Sustainer ... What do you like about the magazine? What would you like to see more of? We welcome your comments and suggestions at:  
[sustainer@3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil](mailto:sustainer@3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil)

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## ▶▶ Minimize stress By Tony Jones, 3rd COSCOM FRSA

As the war on terrorism progresses, all of us will at some point experience varying amounts of stress. For families that are affiliated with the military, there is the added level of anxiety that associates itself with an ongoing fear for the safety of a spouse or family member who may be deployed.

This situation changes the family structure, placing them on unfamiliar ground and with all the baggage that comes with it. Mothers and fathers in an instant become single parents, and children lose the comfort of having two parents to turn to for guidance, safety and support.

Some families do not show signs of the effects of this situation immediately, but rather have a delayed reaction, which is troubling because these families have not realized that they may be in trouble. What we need to do now is help prepare Soldiers and their families to cope with these issues by helping them identify some of the signs and characteristics of emotional stress such as -

- \* Increased levels of anger
- \* Difficulty making decisions
- \* Misdirection or not completing tasks
- \* Not being able to focus or concentrate
- \* Emotional spells (crying)
- \* Not being able to sleep
- \* Excessive drinking or drug use

These are just a few indicators that one may be experiencing stressful times. Children, on the other hand, as with us all, deal with this differently. Families that I've spoken with indicate they have experienced differences in the way their children exhibit levels of stress.

While one child may show signs of withdrawal, the other may act out in a way totally uncharacteristic of their normal behavior by talking back, grades dropping, developing eating disorders, being short tempered and even using vulgar language. It's vital that parents use outside resources such as teachers, school counselors and coaches to help identify some of these signs in order to provide the correct assistance for children faced with these kinds of issues.

Some families may try to get back into a routine

in order to regain a sense of control, but others may have difficulty getting back to normalcy for some time. In either case, both reactions are common responses to crisis. The old metaphor "Time heals all wounds," may hold true here because the immediate focus of the cause or the initial impact has worn off; however, this does not mean that the true nature of the problem doesn't exist anymore.

Because everybody experiences stress differently, don't compare your "progress" with others around you or judge other people's reactions and emotions. While many people survive major life stressors without developing significant psychological problems, others may need assistance.

▶▶ **Talk About It** By talking with others, particularly other military spouses, you will relieve stress and realize that other people share your feelings. Support groups exist at most military installations. If there's one available to you, join; if not, consider starting one.

▶▶ **Maintain Physical Health** Get plenty of rest and exercise, avoid excessive drinking and drugs, and eat properly. Avoid foods that are high in fats and calories.

▶▶ **Limit Exposure to Media** Especially avoid around-the-clock television news coverage and the Internet. The images, rumors and speculation can be very damaging to your sense of well-being.

▶▶ **Engage in Relaxing Activities** Plant flowers, attend a concert, visit an art gallery, or take a long bath. Be kind to yourself.

▶▶ **Do Something Positive** Get involved in activities that encourage togetherness and reassurance. Contact community volunteer organizations to see how you can help. Give blood, prepare "care packages" for service men and women or write letters to people in the military. Support a friend or neighbor who is having a difficult time.

▶▶ **Seek Treatment** If you have strong feelings that won't go away or you are troubled for more than four to six weeks, you may want to seek professional help. Most military installations have a Family Service Center, Family Support Center or Army Community Service Center where you can find professional help.



# What's In A Name?

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Barbara Sherer, 3rd COSCOM Deputy Chaplain

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How can you communicate with people when you have no common language? I was faced with that question the other day when my chaplain's assistant and I went out with a civil affairs team on a mission to a local community. We had some beanie babies from a school in Florida, and wanted to give them to Iraqi school children. The civil affairs team was planning to distribute a trailer full of clothes, sports items and sundries, so we jumped in with their mission and took off for Ad Dujayl, a town a few kilometers south of Balad.

As we arrived in the courtyard of a local school, the civil affairs team and their interpreters found some of the community leaders and sat down to discuss ways to support the school. I waited outside for awhile, then entered the school and walked down the hallway. I couldn't help but notice three women, heads covered with colorful scarves, peeking out of an open doorway. They were staring, curiously, at this "Soldier" walking down the hall, in helmet, sunglasses and body armor. I realized they thought I was just another one of the American men who had invaded their space. So, I took off my helmet and sunglasses, and their eyes lit up as they recognized that I was a woman. I smiled at them, and they leaned a little further out the door.

Now, what to do? I wanted to make friends, but know virtually no Arabic. They knew only a few words of English. Then one woman, the boldest of the bunch, pointed to herself and said "Zahra." Ahhh, names, at least we could exchange that. I pointed to myself and said "Barbara." Zahra now pointed to another woman standing in the doorway with her, and said, "Seja." And Seja inched a little further out into the hallway as her name was announced. I could now see that I was going to hear everyone's name. I wanted to remember them, and my memory isn't what it used to be, so I reached into my cargo pocket and pulled out my green memoranda book. Grabbing a pen out of my sleeve pocket, I began to sound out the first two names and write them phonetically in my booklet. They looked very pleased and excited that I cared enough to try and remember their names. "Amahl," came the next name; "Iftechar" was another... they were coming

too fast! I was trying to keep up and laughing at the same time as I tried to correctly pronounce and spell each name.

A man walked by, one of them pointed and said "Ali ... husband." He looked at us sort of perplexed and continued on down the hall. They were now all smiling and gathering around me as we made valiant attempts to use sign language and broken English to learn as much as possible about each other. I eventually discovered that they were all teachers. They taught mostly Arabic and Koran. They were all married, but only one had children.

I think back now about the key moment when our communication barrier dropped. It was our names. In both of our cultures, names are very important. The choice of a name for a child is something many parents agonize over. That name can set the tone for the child's life, or create a special link with a favorite relative. In ancient times to know a person's name was to know their essence, who they really were, and thus to have power over them. This was why the name of God was never uttered. It is also why a major change in someone's life

would often lead to a name change for that person. Right here in the Fertile Crescent, for example, a special covenant was made between God and Abram, (the forebear of all three major cultures in this region) and as a result his name became "Abraham" and his wife Sarai was renamed "Sarah"

Maybe this was why the simple sharing of names opened the doors between women of two very different cultures. Sharing our names said, "I am not afraid for you to know me." It was like an open hand held out in greeting. Our willingness to offer something of ourselves to each other broke down the barriers created by suspicion and wariness, and opened up a whole new world of friendship. That was all the common language we needed!

***Our willingness to offer something of ourselves to each other broke down the barriers created by suspicion and wariness, and opened up a whole new world of friendship.***



Photo by Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

***3rd Corps Support Command personnel had a uniquely relevant way of observing the 40-day season of Lent thanks to the devoted efforts of their fellow Soldiers and civilians. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Barbara K. Sherer, the 3rd COSCOM deputy chaplain, organized the faithful forces of more than forty COSCOM Soldiers and civilians to create the unit's Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07***

## ... Lenten devotional book

*Contributors in chronological order as they appear in book*

Chaplain (Maj.) Jeff Bell, 40th CSG  
Sgt. Christopher M. Rosevelt, 3rd COSCOM  
Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, CG, 3rd COSCOM  
Lt. Col. Lawrence Robinson, 3rd COSCOM G2  
Chaplain (Capt.) Rob Smith, 548th LTF  
Maj. John Penree, 3rd COSCOM G6  
CW4 Richard L. Brooks, 19th SC  
Maj. Mark Evans, 27th Trans. Bn.  
Cpl. Monica Olson, 3rd COSCOM  
Lt. Col. Susan Bacon, 3rd COSCOM  
Lt. Col. Lance J. Newbold, 3rd COSCOM  
Chaplain (Capt.) Terry E. Romine, 2-44 ADA  
Lt. Col. Matt "Mad Dog" Ferguson, 3rd COSCOM  
Master Sgt. Elbert Jackson, 3rd COSCOM UMT  
Lt. Col. Robin M. Smith, 3rd COSCOM G4  
Spec. Christopher Robbins, 3rd COSCOM UMT  
Maj. Gary Spearow, 19th SC  
Lt. Col. Keith Carroll, 3rd COSCOM  
Chaplain (Maj.) K. Llewellyn "Chappy" McGhee, I SA Anaconda Installation Chaplain  
Lt. Col. Albert "Al" Zakaiib, 3rd COSCOM G5  
Lt. Col. Karen Rosser, 3rd COSCOM G1  
Col. Martin Christensen and Maj. Cindy Christensen, 3rd COSCOM Surgeon Section  
Lt. Col. Ron Williams, II MEF LNO

WO1 Anthony Hampton, 181st Trans. Bn.  
Lorese Dudley, 3rd COSCOM Safety  
Chaplain (Capt.) Raymond Folsom, 27th Trans. Bn.  
Lt. Col. James Hay, 3rd COSCOM  
Master Sgt. Isaac N Horton, 3rd COSCOM  
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Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick, 27th Trans. Bn.  
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Lt. Col. Dave Lawson, CDC, 3rd COSCOM  
Staff Sgt. David N. Thomas II, 3rd COSCOM UMT  
Chaplain (Capt.) Craig Johnson, 485th CSB  
Chaplain (1st Lt.) Darin Hendrey, 406th CSB  
Chaplain (Capt.) Denise A. Hagler, 18th CSB  
Spec. Mary E. Ferguson, 3rd COSCOM  
Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Quigg, 3rd COSCOM  
Chaplain (Capt.) James Key, LTF 530  
Chaplain (Capt.) Loren Hutsell, C 6-32 HET BAT  
Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Graves, 64th CSG  
Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Bragg, 4th SB  
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Barbara Sherer, 3rd COSCOM  
Col. Susan Sowers, Chief of Staff, 3rd COSCOM  
Chaplain (Col.) Larry D. Robinson, 3rd COSCOM Command Chaplain

[www.3coscom.army.mil/leadership/staff/chaplain/lent-messages.asp](http://www.3coscom.army.mil/leadership/staff/chaplain/lent-messages.asp)

### Forward Chaplains

HQ/ 19th CMCM	Chaplain (Col.) Larry Robinson Master Sgt. Elbert Jackson Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Barb Sherer Staff Sgt. David Thomas Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Quigg Sgt. Heather Morgan Spec. Christopher Robbins
27th MCB	Chaplain (Cpt.) Raymond Folsom Spec. Jared Gregory
35th ASG	Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin McGhee Sgt. Christopher Rosevelt Sgt. Pamela Palagar
16th CSG	Chaplain (Maj.) Homer McClearn Staff Sgt. Arthur Washington Chaplain (Maj.) William Harding Sgt. Ariel Castillo Chaplain (1st Lt.) Darin Hendrey Pfc. Timothy Carrico Chaplain (Cpt.) Craig Johnson Pvt. Christina Peters
40th CSG	Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffery Bell Staff Sgt. Lufino Mejorado Chaplain (Cpt.) Michael Williams Chaplain (Cpt.) Robert Smith Spec. Evelyn Hess
64th CSG	Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Graves Sgt. Matthew Nelson Chaplain (Cpt.) William Glenn Sgt. Robert Dinsmore Spec. Jacob Tanner Chaplain (Cpt.) Christopher Wallace Spec. Raymond Grove
4th SB	Chaplain (Maj.) Gray Bragg Staff Sgt. Jeffery Simmons Chaplain (Cpt.) Daniel Husak Spec. Shenika Hampton Chaplain (Cpt.) Chuen Yoo Chaplain (Cpt.) James Key Sgt. Dustin Hall Chaplain (Cpt.) Denise Hagler Spec. Payten Redfern Chaplain (Cpt.) Loren Hutsell Spec. Donte Earl
101st SB	Chaplain (Maj.) Steven Turner Staff Sgt. Tracy Jackson Chaplain (Maj.) Glen Mosteller Pvt. Jacob Street Chaplain (Cpt.) John Smith Pfc. Michael Amber Chaplain (Cpt.) Kenneth Gesch Pvt. Daniel Boatwright Chaplain (Cpt.) Billy Graham Sgt. Graig Berg
48th BCT	Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stanley Bamberg Master Sgt. John Linstra Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Lee Yoakam Staff Sgt. Robert Davis Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jonathan Fisher Sgt. James Franklin Chaplain (1st Lt.) Paul Douglas Sgt. Kurt Kirby Spec. Jeremy Scott Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Johnson Sgt. Jay Robinson Chaplain (Cpt.) Terry Romine Spec. Ernest Tillinghaust Chaplain (Maj.) David Anderson Spec. Greg Hogarth

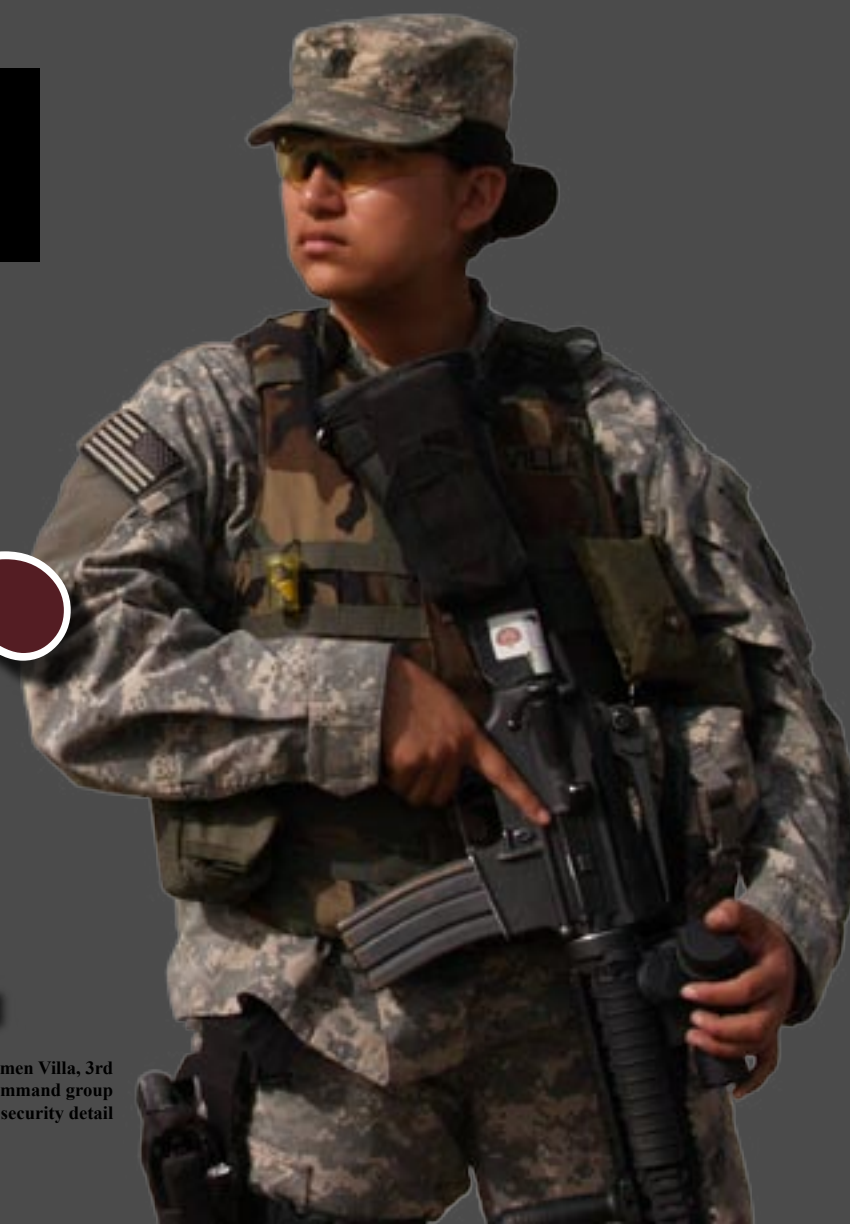
# Women

*Story and Photo by  
Spc. Mary E. Ferguson*

Women have consistently filled a variety of roles during periods of war and peace, demonstrating their unconditional devotion to their country.

# *in* War

Spc. Carmen Villa, 3rd  
COSCOM command group  
personal security detail





69,638

Active Army Women

42,760

National Guard Women

43,839

Reserve Women

Data from Soldier's 2005 Almanac

**E**ducator, innovator, activist, advocate, pioneer, historian, artist, leader and Soldier are just a few of the countless roles women played as they created communities and promoted dreams during the 20th century. History reveals that women have constantly met these diverse needs during periods of war and peace, demonstrating their unconditional devotion to their country.

Fueled by organizations like the National Women's History Project, schools and communities throughout America spent March observing and honoring the sacrifices and contributions of the many women who seized these roles.

While the 2006 NWHF honoree list hosts the names of 11 women whose dedicated quests toward an improved world are responsible for much of history's progress, 3rd Corps Support Command female Soldiers are continuously penning their names onto the lists of those worthy of future honors.

The lives, accomplishments and visions of two 3rd COSCOM female senior leaders illustrate the influence previous women builders have had on this generation's crew.

Though Col. Jannett Jackson, the 40th Corps Support Group commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Graham, the 181st Transportation Battalion command sergeant major, took different routes to reach their current leadership roles, both journeys paint a portrait of where women have been and where they are going.

Jackson, now the highest ranking African American female in the California National Guard, is in her 28th year of military service.

As a National Guard Soldier, Jackson lives somewhat of a "double life", allowing her to help create communities and sustain dreams in countless ways and in myriad venues.

Jackson left her civilian role as the College of Alameda's vice president of instruction to fill her

current role as the 40th CSG commander in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Graham joined the Army in September 1984, and during her 20-year climb to command sergeant major she lunged at the opportunity to lead Soldiers at all levels.

As the 181st Trans. Bn command sergeant major, Graham is now the senior enlisted advisor to the unit's commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Chambers.

As Jackson and Graham reflect the strength of the role models in their past, they project an infectious sense of hope and encouragement to the Soldiers they lead, ensuring the foundation they have built will not go neglected.

"For many years women weren't commonly looked at as a foundation for the community, rather the glue that kept things together at moments," Graham explained. "Today's women are making history by being more than the glue. We are stepping up, building and strengthening the foundation for our communities."

Though they have broken barriers during their military careers, they've also hammered nails of dedication and selfless sacrifice into boards of commitment and strength.

They are building, not breaking, the foundation for the young female Soldiers who post at guard towers, command combat logistical patrols, monitor transportation movements, maintain equipment, lead platoons and perform countless other duties that may have been off-limits to females in the past.

#### Soldiers like:

■ Spc. Carmen Villa, a 7th Corps Support Group Soldier who is currently deployed to Iraq with the 3rd COSCOM headquarters, as a member of 3rd COSCOM Commander, Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead's, personal security detail.

■ Spc. Michelle Tavarez from the 19th Support Center who is the first female from her family to serve in the military. Tavarez' recent promotion to specialist and participation in her company's Soldier of the Month board reveal she is attacking opportunities for advancement, and welcoming new responsibilities.

■ Sgt. Jayme Robison, a reservist with the 27th Transportation Battalion's 630th Movement Control Detachment. Robison is responsible for coordinating the movement of combat logistical patrols throughout theater, and works as a project manager at a construction company in her civilian life.

■ Sgt. 1st Class Betty Franklin and Staff Sgt. Debra Terrell, platoon sergeants with 3rd COSCOM's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, who dedicate themselves to the welfare and needs of their Soldiers. Franklin and Terrell sacrifice what little personal time they have while deployed conducting board study group classes for lower enlisted Soldiers.

■ 1st Lt. Tracie Pichotta a reservist with the 548th Corps Support Battalion's 400th Quartermaster Company who has been in charge of the LSA Anaconda Mortuary Affairs Team during her deployment. Pichotta is a probation officer in her civilian life.

■ Capt. Megan Youngblood of the 19th Support Center, who served as aide de camp for Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, during Halstead's first year as the 3rd COSCOM commanding general. Youngblood then deployed as the 19th Support Center's S1. Among countless other responsibilities, Youngblood handles the R & R leave dates for all HHC, 3rd COSCOM and HHC, 19th Support Center Soldiers, playing a crucial role in the units' overall morale.

*As a nation motivated by progress and growth, there will always be new challenges and barriers to break, and female Soldiers like these will conquer those challenges and demolish those barriers. But, when they stand in the rubble of their success, they'll stand sure-footed on the strong foundation built by women like Jackson, Graham and thousands of other female Soldiers, who were themselves standing in similar debris years earlier.*

## Centuries of Women Warriors

1775 - 1783

### American Revolution

*Women serve on the battlefield as nurses, water bearers, cooks, laundresses and saboteurs.*

1846 - 1848

### Mexican War

*Elizabeth Newcom enlists in Company D of the Missouri Infantry as Bill Newcom and marches 600 miles*

1861 - 1865

### Civil War

*Women provide casualty care and nursing on both fronts, and disguise themselves as men in order to serve. Dr. Mary Walker receives the Medal of Honor.*

1917 - 1918

### World War I

*21, 480 Army nurses serve in military hospitals during the course of the war. The Army trains 233 bilingual telephone operators to work switchboards. More than 400 military nurses die in the line of duty.*

1941 - 1945

### World War II

*More than 60,000 Army nurses serve stateside and overseas. The Army establishes the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and more than 150,000 women serve during the war. The Women Air Force Service Pilots are organized.*

1950 - 1953

### Korean War

*Reserve servicewomen are involuntarily recalled to active duty. More than 500 nurses serve in combat zone.*

1965 - 1975

### Vietnam War

*Some 7,000 American military women serve in Southeast Asia, mostly as nurses.*

1990 - 1991

### War in Persian Gulf

*Some 40,000 American military women are deployed during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.*

# Compensation

By Staff Sgt. Brian Crist  
HHC, 16th Corp Support Group

**H**ow much per hour would a job have to pay for you to get out of the Army? A more important question, how much per hour are you really making now?

Pay and benefits have been reported as one of the number one reasons Soldiers stay in and at the same time number one reason for them getting out. What about the Soldiers who decide to leave the Army thinking they will be all right financially only to be rudely awakened by the reality that they will not be able to continue at their current standard of living?

Financial security is an important factor for any Soldier and their family. Total pay and benefits received should be investigated by every Soldier in order to make an informed decision before departing the service.

A Soldier's base pay is only a portion of the cash benefits received. Soldiers also receive basic allowance for housing and basic allowance for subsistence. These allowances are tax free to Soldiers. Similar benefits paid to individuals by civilian employers are considered taxable income.

Since Soldiers do not pay taxes on these benefits, the tax savings realized by Soldiers are an additional benefit that must be added to the total amount of compensation to come up with an accurate representation of total earnings.

Soldiers who do not get the monetary amount of BAH and BAS on their leave and earning statements still receive and enjoy the benefits in the form of military quarters and meal cards.

The BAS for enlisted Soldiers is currently \$267.18 per month.

BAH is computed using rank and geographical location, and the average BAH amount from five randomly selected locations gives a general idea for estimated BAH.

The average of Forts Bragg, Fort Stewart, Fort Drum, Fort Hood and Fort Lewis for a specialist and staff sergeant are \$872.80 and \$1052.20 respectively.

Regular Military Compensation is a formula used to give a Soldier an accurate computation of their total realized compensation and benefits. This figure is necessary to properly compare and analyze a Soldier's current income level to that of similar civilian occupations. Each Soldier's RMC is unique to them and will vary slightly from fellow Soldiers.

*A specialist with three years time for pay receives \$1,842.60 per month. Adding the estimated BAH of \$873.00, BAS of \$267.18 and tax free advantage earnings of \$228.03 to the base pay gets a total monthly benefit of \$3,249.00 per month. That specialist must make at least \$38,529.00 per year, or \$18.52 per hour, in the civilian workforce just to equal his/her current standard of living. A staff sergeant with ten years time for pay makes \$2,770.50 as his/her base pay. With BAH of \$1052.20, a BAS of \$267.18 and tax advantage earnings of \$263.84, a staff sergeant makes a total of \$4,391.92 per month. That comes out to a little over \$25 per hour.*

Those figures do not include the costs of some of the other services that are free or reduced to Soldiers, but are virtually nonexistent in the civilian sector such as free health coverage and prescriptions, dental coverage, 100 percent tuition assistance, 30 days paid leave per year, unlimited sick days, commissary and post exchange privileges and guaranteed retirement pension after 20 years of service.

Understanding and employing the RMC formula reveals that the Army is a great place to raise and provide for a family. For more information about your total earnings and benefits see your career counselor.

## Summer Safety Awareness



*While many safety concerns are constant throughout the year, many become more relevant during certain seasons. With summer closing in, there are hazards associated with this season that individuals need to become more aware of and ensure mitigating factors are employed. Hydration, sun protection and heat stress are three of the areas that warrant increased attention during the summer months.*

### Hydration

Drinking the proper amount of water is always important, regardless of the time of year. Fluid replacement should be determined on a work and rest basis. Remember overhydration is just as hazardous as dehydration. Ensure hourly fluid intake does not exceed 1 ½ quarts and daily fluid intake does not exceed 12 quarts.

### Sun Protection

Protect yourself from the sun whenever possible by spending breaks in natural or artificial shelter. Wear wide-brimmed hats to protect your eyes, head and neck. Cover your arms, legs and torso with loose-fitting clothing. Use high-SPF sunscreens. Wear wrap-around eye-wear if possible, this protects against the sun rays that come from the front and the side.

### Heat Categories

- 1 78 - 81.9 degrees
- 2 82 - 84.9 degrees
- 3 85 - 87.9 degrees
- 4 88 - 89.9 degrees
- 5 > 90 degrees

### Heat Stress

**Warning signs, symptoms and immediate actions in Heat Stress and Illness:**

Signs/Symptoms	Immediate Actions
~ Dizziness	~ Remove from Training
~ Headache	~ Rest in Shade
~ Nausea	~ Loosen Clothing
~ Unsteady Walk	~ Take Sips of Water
~ Weakness or Fatigue	~ Call for Medic Evaluation
~ Muscle Cramps	~ Elevate Feet
~ High Body Temperature	~ Apply Ice Packs/Sheets
~ Confusion/Agitation	~ Pour Cold Water Over Person and Fan
~ Weak/Rapid Pulse	~ Monitor Airway and Breathing
~ Unresponsiveness/Coma	~ Constantly Ensure Responsiveness





# MASS *casualty* EXERCISE

*Story and Photos by Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta*

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*Preparation Prevents Chaos*

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Pfc. Stewart Khalid, with 3rd Corps Support Command's 19th Support Center, grieves over a deceased casualty to compel other first responders to move quickly to save lives during the installation-level mass casualty exercise on Logistical Support Area Anaconda Feb. 24.



# **“In order to move from chaos to managed chaos, someone has to step up and make the call,” said Capt. Yancy Caruthers, the 3rd Corps Support Command’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company medical operations officer.**

More than 100 Army and Air Force emergency response personnel took that “step up”, testing Logistical Support Area Anaconda’s ability to respond to a mass casualty situation by conducting the installation’s largest ever medical training exercise Feb. 24.

Troops responded around 3 p.m. to an imaginary explosion near the south end of dining facility #1.

About eight minutes into the exercise, one of several servicemembers in DFAC #1 called 9-1-1, a new service established here in December 2005, to notify emergency response teams that a mortar had exploded.

“This is an exercise. This is an exercise,” said the servicemember over the phone. “A mortar has hit DFAC #1, and there are a whole bunch of people hurt here. We need some help down here.”

Aside from the medical response teams, who arrived on scene almost immediately, servicemembers near the simulated incident responded with combat lifesaver and buddy aid training.

“Everyone in the environment must respond, even those who are not a part of the exercise,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Ronald Prettyman, the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squad fire chief. “You never know who is available to respond first. That’s why there are casualty collection boxes all over post.”

Air Force Special Forces and nearby Army personnel were first on the scene, using supplies from casualty collection boxes nearby,

while assuming the combat lifesaver role.

First responders maneuvered around a maze of toppled chairs, scattered bodies and theatrical gore, while helpless servicemembers lay staring at the ceiling as others screamed and pleaded for immediate treatment.

In response to the commotion, combat lifesavers demanded medical equipment to assess the wounds of each patient while barking life-saving orders to anyone present.

“Quick, hand me that bag,” said Spc. Janet Sonntag, a 3rd COSCOM, 19th Support Center first responder on the scene, to one of the videographers documenting the exercise.

“Ok, not you...you,” she said pointing to a Soldier nearby. She continued to check the casualties for additional wounds.

“This man needs a tourniquet,” she added urgently.

In addition to care provided by first responders, military police, Explosive Ordnance Disposal and fire department services were also simulated in the exercise.

“We allowed the fire trucks and ambulances to operate without additional traffic during the exercise; otherwise, it would have been real crowded,” said Capt. Jasin R. Cooley, the 35th Area Support Group provost marshal in charge of traffic control during the exercise.

“Typically, police are first on the scene of an incident like this so they are oftentimes required to perform as combat lifesavers as well,” Cooley said. “It’s difficult to take a

Spc. Janet Sonntag, with the 3rd Corps Support Command, 19th Support Center motor pool, searches a casualty for additional wounds inside dining facility#1 during the installation-level mass casualty exercise.







Sonntag leads fellow Soldiers toward a mock casualty leaning against a Jersey barrier

step back from the wounded, but the military police have to control the traffic surrounding the incident.”

Realistically, victims would not be removed from the scene of an incident as quickly as they were here today, said Capt. Robert J. West, a 35th ASG force protection officer.

EOD must perform a sweep of the area first, Cooley added. However, because of the sensitive and demanding nature of EOD on the LSA, they were excluded from the exercise.

Firefighters were present at the exercise. Wearing thick protective silver suits and face guards, they proceeded through the DFAC checking for additional safety hazards.

The sweep of DFAC #1 was considered clean, Cooley said.

“The exercise went well,” said Air Force Master Sgt. David A. Lawrence, the 332nd ECES assistant fire chief. “We identified and adjusted the few hiccups in communication,” he added.

Overall, casualties were effectively identified and treated in a timely manner, said Caruthers. Army and Air Force personnel worked effectively together to improve emergency response methods at LSA Anaconda during the mass casualty exercise.

Though the exercise was successful, each team found ways to improve their section’s responsiveness in emergency situations.

The medical team plans to improve the installation’s ability to respond in emergency situations by replacing empty plywood casualty collection boxes with green waterproof containers better suited to store medical supplies.

All emergency response teams agreed that a central dispatch would alleviate the “hiccups” in communication.

The installation will continue to conduct mass casualty exercises quarterly and improve on each team’s responsiveness as frequently as possible, said Col. Mark W. Hampton, the 35th ASG commander.

Emergency response teams effectively used LSA Anaconda’s new 9-1-1 emergency phone system and gave combat lifesavers, military police, firefighters and EOD additional practice during the February exercise.

Installation professionals’ dedication to details and willingness to improve enable the LSA to better secure, protect and save lives here while the war against terrorism continues.



## 1 Million Miles 142nd CSB

*Story and Photos by Sgt. Rachel Brune  
101st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs*

Soldiers of the 142nd Corps Support Battalion celebrated their millionth mile of ground covered in Iraq with a cake ceremony and toasts on Logistical Support Area Diamondback March 7.

“The millionth mile is not the end of the line,” said Lt. Col. Ronald Green, battalion commander.

Green and his subordinate unit commanders used a saber to cut the cake, before Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, rolled out of the gates to complete the battalion’s millionth mile of combat logistical patrols.

Along the battalion’s wall of fame, Pfc. Joseph Hackett, an artilleryman from Blacksburg, Va., put the finishing touches on a new painting depicting an odometer showing one million miles and the date. Hackett, of B/2-5, contributed his unit’s mural to the collection in front of battalion headquarters.

Soldiers from each unit under the battalion raised their glasses and made toasts to their units, the Army and to their fellow Soldiers.

Remembered in the toasts was Sgt. Ivan Alarcon, 473rd Quartermaster Company, who was killed Nov. 17, 2005, in a vehicular accident in the vicinity of Tal Afar, Iraq.

Soldiers also toasted Cpl. Frank M. Sandoval, B/2-5 artilleryman, who was wounded in action.

“Coming here, I never imagined we’d drive one million miles,” said Capt. Thomas Caldwell, battery commander. The Charlotte, N.C., native explained that although operating gun truck escorts is not a primary function of field artillery, the unit is trained to move from firing point to firing point, so “convoys are what we do.”

Bravo’s first sergeant has another thought on what has made the unit successful in its eight months in theater.

“Disciplined Soldiers [are] the key to a successful Army. Bravo/2-5 proves that every day,” said 1st Sgt. Thomas Parsley, of Lawton, Okla.

The millionth mile combat logistical patrol rolled out of the gates to Forward Operating Base Sykes under the supervision of Staff Sgt. William Willoughby, of Sumter, S.C. Willoughby, a “quiet professional” according to Caldwell, recently assumed duties as CLP commander after several months acting as assistant CLP commander.

“Every time I come out, it’s never the same,” said Willoughby.

Backing up Willoughby were gunner Spc. Fran Toledo, an artilleryman from Salt Lake City, Utah, and driver Pfc. Eric Ray, an artilleryman from St. Louis, Mo. Although Toledo has three years of service, Ray received



**Icing flies as the 142nd CSB commanders celebrate reaching the unit’s millionth mile of combat logistics patrols March 7.**



**Pfc. Joseph Hackett, Battery B, 2-5th Field Artillery, paints a mural commemorating the 142nd CSB’s millionth mile of combat logistics patrols March 7.**

his orders for deployment the day he arrived at the unit from advanced individual training, or AIT.

“I just know what training and coming out here is like,” said Ray, who has previous driving experience from working on his grandparents’ cattle ranch.

Fellow artilleryman-driver, Pfc. Michael Pierce, of Exeter, Maine, used to work as a truck driver before joining the military.

“It’s a difficult mission to explain,” said Pierce. “It’s changing all the time.”

“It’s a thinking man’s game,” said Willoughby. He credits his crew with knowing their jobs so well that they taught him what he needed to know as CLP commander.

“If you could have privates as convoy commanders, they could do it,” said Willoughby.

Although the different mission has its challenges, the battery commander’s troops have adapted and overcome those challenges throughout their deployment.

Unit cohesion is also a factor in the battery’s ability to adjust to the mission.

“Bravo keeps the morale up by being one big family,” said Pierce.



**Master Sgt. Sandra Smith, with the 19th Support Center, reads the autobiography of Mahalia Jackson, famous African American gospel singer, during the ‘Who Am I’ presentation remembering ethnic heroes at Logistical Support Area Anaconda Feb. 12.**

## BlackHistoryMonth

*Observance educates deployed servicemembers, civilians*

*Story and Photo by Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta*

Servicemembers celebrated Black History Month Feb. 12 at the east Morale, Welfare and Recreation center at Logistical Support Area Anaconda to remember the contributions of our nation’s black heroes through a series of biographical speeches and role-playing.

Posters of black history-makers lined the walls of the center depicting distinctive expressions of accomplishment, and set the stage for the program theme, “Who am I?”

Chairperson of the event, 400th Quartermaster Company Staff Sgt. Annette Tyler, said the purpose of the program was to educate people on the accomplishments of several black heroes.

During the program servicemembers recited biographical information and reenacted historical events while occasionally interrupting their presentations with the question, “who am I?”

The Soldiers who were first to correctly identify the featured hero received a matching pen and pencil and a wooden box engraved with the words, “Providing Infinite Dignity and Worth Through STEADFAST Leadership.” Pfc. Thomas Edward Brooks and Harriet Tubman were among those heroes correctly identified by members of the audience.

“Pfc. Thomas Edward Brooks was the original bus boycotter,” said Pvt. Antoine S. Thomas, a 548th Logistics Task Force Soldier, who memorized biographical information on Brooks for the presentation.

“Reading over [Brooks’] biography broadened my horizons on the sacrifices that people had to make then,” said Thomas.

In 1950, Pfc. Thomas Edwards Brooks lost his life in a police shooting after refusing to board a bus from the back door. This event took place five years before Rosa Parks launched a bus boycott by refusing to give up her seat to a white man.

Harriet Tubman and her involvement with the Underground Railroad was represented midway in the program, as a line of crouching people in costumes made from torn brown T-shirts, fleece bottoms and civilian clothes made their way through the center aisle to the front of the room.

“We [the organization committee] worked with what we had,” said 40th Corps Support Command 1st Lt. Benjamin J. Shuford III, co-chairman of the program committee, who enlisted volunteers to perform in the presentation.

The organization committee wanted the audience to be drawn into the time period and get a feel for what it was like to be a slave escaping via the Underground Railroad, he added.

Though no single individual developed the Underground Railroad, the short role-playing exercise portrayed Harriet Tubman’s 19 trips to Maryland and her involvement in helping 300 people to freedom.

Other black heroes honored at the presentation through speeches provided by servicemembers included the Golden Thirteen, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen, represented on LSA Anaconda by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of black history.

The MWR East staff and the 3rd Corps Support Command Equal Opportunity team were essential in the success of this program, Tyler added.

“If we have educated, then we have succeeded,” she added.



# TASK FORCE BANDIT

Story and photos by Spc. David Chapman

*The idling engines rumble in the background as Soldiers gather for one last briefing from the convoy commander. The commander issues warnings about the enemy awaiting them outside the safe confines of Logistical Support Area Anaconda. He reaffirms what the Soldiers already know – there are people waiting outside the wire who want to kill them. But with the words of warning also come words of encouragement as the Soldiers shake each others' hands and make their way to their trucks. The trucks maneuver through the streets of Anaconda and out onto the challenging roads of Iraq.*





# **T**ask Force Bandit, formally Task Force Warrior, is a team of 3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers trained to roam the roads of Iraq and tackle the dangers they may face.

The task force conducts a variety of missions. While they may spend several nights a week providing additional perimeter security and increasing the level of safety on LSA Anaconda from outside-the-wire positions, the branded “Bandit” trucks may also be seen during that same week escorting a command convoy to Baghdad. They are trained to be flexible, adjust fire and attack the range of missions thrown at any combat task force.

The Soldiers of Task Force Bandit began their military careers as water treatment specialists, administration specialists, food service specialists and a variety of other support oriented positions. A majority of the men volunteered for the assignment and some were hand selected, but none regret the choice they made of performing such a dangerous task.

A combination of adventure seeking, camaraderie and pride are what make this team come together and work efficiently on the road. The person to the left, right or in the gun turret could be what lies between these Soldiers and death. For those Soldiers on the team who wanted more excitement from their tour in Iraq this job was exactly what they were looking for.

“Adventure brought me here, I’m a 92G [food service specialist] and I did not want to sit around a cafeteria,” said Spc. Bryan Larson, gunner for truck 11. “I volunteered after one of team’s gunners was injured when they got hit by a vehicle-born improvised explosive device.”

“I was in the fusion cell for six months, going there day after day as an ammunition specialist and it became monotonous,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Grimes, armored security vehicle driver. “Now I’m getting to go out on the road, seeing Iraq and not stuck here behind the fence.”

But with adventure also comes danger. The roads crisscrossing Iraq are littered with improvised explosive devices, and insurgents willing to give their lives to take the lives of American Soldiers, using vehicle-born IEDs and small arms fire. Task Force Bandit has encountered both types of attacks.

“On Nov. 9, 2005, we were hit by a woman who drove a VBIED into our lead vehicle, we had three Soldiers who received a purple heart from that attack” said Sgt. 1st Class Craig Madden, truck 13 commander.

“Then Feb. 14, 2006 we were hit by an IED buried in the ground, this one was close. We were lucky the insurgent who buried it made a mistake because it blew straight up and it didn’t hurt anyone. It was a big explosion and we just roared through it,” Madden said.

Remarkably, with the dangers that can plague a team like Task Force Bandit, there are few fears among them that relate to bombs and the enemy.

“I don’t think it is that scary out there at all,” said Staff Sgt. Jake Germain, ASV truck commander.

“The biggest fear out on the road is the not knowing what might be around the corner,” said Spc. Micheal Matusiak, driver of truck 15. “If you are not worried about getting hit then something is wrong with you.”

A by-product of fear and danger is bonding. When a team has to work and live together they develop a special relationship that only people in combat can really understand.

“Our first mission together we got hit, there was no avoiding what happened,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Scales, truck commander and gunner for truck 12. “We just have to learn from it, and we have all come closer together because of it.”

“The bond between these guys is special,” Germain said. “I was cross leveled from another unit, so when I came here I did not know anyone. But I found that they are all just like a family.”

When the team is not on the road traveling to various forward operating bases around Iraq they carry on much the same as any section on LSA Anaconda.

The guys all work out, go to movies, eat and work together. Spending so much time together allows the Soldiers to understand how their teammates think and act.

“The unit cohesion is the best part of working with this team,” Scales said. “Knowing you can trust your brother to the right and left of you no matter what the rank.”

“The NCOs are great and the team members take care of each other,” said Pfc. Alexander Muschek, who drives or is gunner for any of the task force vehicles that need him. “You know that you are never left alone.”

With this level of cohesion comes the ability to function as a team and operate as one so that each mission can be completed safely. The team’s ability to operate efficiently can be attributed to its leadership and the members themselves.

“I handle the guys with loose reins. I empower my NCOs,” said Master Sgt. Scott Shank, the task force’s noncommissioned officer in charge and a truck commander. “From the outside I’m sure we look pretty chaotic, but once the guys get in their trucks they are professional and get the mission done.”

“They have this job down to a science,” Grimes said. “If you didn’t know everyone’s MOS [military occupational specialty], you would think they were all combat arms. They are precise.”

When the missions are completed and the trucks return to LSA Anaconda safely, the members of Task Force Bandit can rest assured that they have done what they are trained to do to, illustrating their purpose and dedication to their fellow Soldiers throughout Iraq.







# the BANDITS



**Sgt. Bryan L. Esslinger**  
Truck number: 7  
Truck Position: Gunner  
MOS: 63B - Wheeled  
Vehicle Mechanic  
Hometown: Seattle, Wash.



**Staff Sgt. Kevin G. Dawson**  
Truck number: 15  
Truck Position: Truck Commander  
MOS: 31B-Military Police  
Hometown: Inglewood, Calif.



**Spec. Bryan Kenneth Larson**  
Truck number: 11  
Truck Position: Gunner  
MOS: 92G - Food Service  
Hometown: St. Paul, Minn.

**Master Sgt. Scott Lee Shank**  
Truck number: 11  
Truck Position: Platoon Sergeant  
MOS: 88Z - five MOSs  
Hometown: Washington, Iowa



**Staff Sgt. Joshua David Lee Grimes**  
Truck number: 14 Armored Security Vehicle  
Truck Position: Driver  
MOS: 89B - ammo Specialist  
Hometown: Escalon, Calif.



**Pfc. Micheal Claunch**  
Truck number: 12  
Truck Position: Driver/Gunner  
MOS: 92W Water Treatment Specialist  
Hometown: Dallas, Texas



**Sgt. Ronald Paul Rodrique Jr.**  
Truck number: 11  
Truck Position: Medic  
MOS: 91W- Combat Medic  
Hometown: West Valley City, Utah



**Staff Sgt. Thomas Edward Scales**  
Truck number: 12  
Truck Position: Truck Commander/Gunner  
MOS: 63H Track Vehicle Repair  
Hometown: Galesville, Ala.

**Pfc. Alexander G. Muschek**  
Truck number: All  
Truck Position: Gunner  
MOS: 42L- Admin. Specialist  
Hometown: Ben-salom, Penn.



**Staff Sgt. Jake Brandon Germain**  
Truck number: 14  
Truck Position: Truck Commander  
MOS: 31B Military Police/42A Personnel Serv.  
Hometown: Omaha, N.H.

**Sgt. 1st Class Craig Nathan Madden**  
Truck number: 13  
Truck Position: Truck Commander  
MOS: 63X - Vehicle Maintenance  
Hometown: Live Oaks, Fla.



**Spec. Micheal J. Matusiak**  
Truck number: 15  
Truck Position: Driver  
MOS: 63H Track Vehicle Repair  
Hometown: St. Augustine, Fla.

**Sgt. John O'Leary**  
Truck number: 13  
Truck Position: Gunner  
MOS: 31B Military Police/88M Truck Driver  
Hometown: Iowa City, Iowa



**Staff Sgt. Chgward Williams**  
Truck number: 11  
Truck Position: Driver  
MOS: 42L/31B Military Police  
Hometown: Ginerette, La.

*\*Soldiers shown were the active members of Task Force Bandit at time of magazine publication.*



**D**uring the last few months, I have witnessed first hand all the great work that our 3rd COSCOM Soldiers have been doing on a daily basis. From Harbur Gate to Kuwait, and Korean Village to Baghdad, commanders should be extremely proud of their units' accomplishments. The Inspector General's office has recently received a number of complaints alleging reprisal against Soldiers for speaking to IGs, members of Congress or their Chain of Command. The paragraphs below highlight the current policy and regulations that protect Soldiers against reprisal. The Department of Defense and the Department of the Army have taken a strong stand against reprisal and have insisted that all reprisal allegations be investigated thoroughly in accordance with applicable federal statutes and component regulations.

~ Lt. Col. Jonathan H. Spencer, 3rd COSCOM Inspector General

■ **A reprisal** is defined as taking or threatening to take an unfavorable personnel action or withholding or threatening to withhold a favorable personnel action, for making or preparing a protected disclosure.

■ **A protected disclosure** is a lawful communication to a member of Congress; an Inspector General; a member of a Department of Defense audit, inspection, investigation, or law enforcement organization; or a member of the chain of command in which a military member communicates information that the member reasonably believes evidences:

(1) *A violation of law or regulation* (2) *Sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination* (3) *Gross Mismanagement* (4) *A gross waste of funds or other resources* (5) *An abuse of authority* (6) *A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.*

■ **A personnel action** is any action regarding a military member that affects or has the potential to affect the military member's current position or career. Such actions include a promotion; disciplinary or other corrective action; a transfer or reassignment; a performance evaluation; a decision on pay, benefits, awards, or training; a referral for mental health evaluation; and any other significant change in duties or responsibilities inconsistent with the military member's rank.

■ **Members of the Armed Forces**

shall be free of reprisal for preparing a protected communication.

■ **No person may** take or threaten to take an unfavorable personnel action, or withhold or threaten to withhold a favorable action personnel action in reprisal against any member of the Armed Forces making or preparing a protected communication.

■ **Any violation** of (e), above, by a person subject to Chapter 47, Title 10, U.S.C., Uniform Code of Military Justice, is punishable as a violation of Article 92 Failure to Obey Order or Regulation, UCMJ, Section 892. Any violation of (e) by a civilian employee is punishable under regulations governing disciplinary or adverse actions.

■ **The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1992** protects persons making protected disclosures against reprisal. Allegations of reprisal will be reported to the DoD Inspector General, who will determine which investigating agency will work the case. Investigations will focus on the reprisal and not the complaint.

■ **Soldiers gain two protections** when they take their complaints directly to the DoD Inspector General. They can request relief from the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, which must be decided in 180 days, and they can appeal the decision to the Secretary of Defense.

## YOUR IG ...

Helps train the Army.

Is responsible to the U.S. Army, the Inspector General System and the commander.

Sphere of Activity includes everything for which the Commander is responsible.

IGs provide assistance, conduct inspections, conduct investigations/inquiries, teach & train.

Ultimately he/she is the extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the commander.

IGs can only advise, not order or direct a Commander to act upon a situation.

IGs can inquire/investigate violations of laws, regulations and policies/directives.



## 3rd COSCOM IG Office

Lt. Col. Jonathan Spencer  
Lt. Col. Dennis Bostow  
Master Sgt. Derrick Smith  
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ervin  
Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Loos  
Sgt. 1st Class Gary Shuler  
Sgt. 1st Class Keith Hayes  
Spc. Lance Espinoza

## Balad, Iraq (LSA Anaconda)

318-829-1125  
Kuwait (Camp Arifjan):  
318-430-6119 or 6330 or 7149

Baghdad: 318-822-2492  
Talil AB: 318-833-1318  
Afghanistan: 318-231-4028 or 4027  
Germany: 314-337-6939

# Human Relations Readiness Training

By Sgt. 1st Class Nichelle Sanders,  
3rd COSCOM EOA

**"Promoting infinite dignity and worth through STEADFAST Leadership," is a great slogan, one that describes 3rd Corps Support Command's Human Relations Readiness Training Program**

3rd COSCOM is promoting the program, but leaders must make it their own; design it, implement it, believe in it. This can't be done without ensuring continual awareness that "caring" remains an organizational imperative. Leaders have a responsibility in seeing that those under them are "promoting infinite dignity and worth." They need to empower them, trust them to get the job done, and inspire them – individually and collectively.

HRRT is built around training and sharing ideas. After a comprehensive assessment of training and detailed consultation with leaders at all levels, the program will gain ownership. The program will be for all Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, Department of Defense civilians, local nationals and third country nationals within the 3rd COSCOM and on Logistical Support Area Anaconda. When training is conducted it will be through small-group discussions with 15 to 25 participants in each session.

The program is designed so a facilitator guides discussions focusing on insensitivity, harassment, basic thoughtlessness and any offensive behavior that endangers human relations. Each command and staff should customize the training to meet its

unit's needs. Keep in mind that what issues apply to one command will not necessarily apply to another. However, the core of the training is the same, to develop a consideration for others.

The small-group discussions can bring local and organizational issues to the forefront. In a small group everyone has a chance to express their views and feelings. This is when the real education starts to take place.

The Human Relations/Equal Opportunity Team strongly supports the HRRT. Everyone should be able to come to work feeling good about themselves, their organization, the work they are doing and the people they work with.

People have to take ownership of it and believe that it is the right thing to do. Training and education foster values and help prevent racial discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct from occurring. People need to ensure the actions they take and the words they say are consistent with the definition of consideration of others, which is, those actions that indicate sensitivity to and regard for the feelings and needs of others and an awareness of the impact of one's own behavior on others; being supportive of and fair with others.

## The five key training elements of HRRT

- 1 **Army policy/commander's intent.** All personnel must know and understand Army human relations policy.
- 2 **Prevention and intervention.** HRRT proactively preventing extremism in the form of racial and ethnic hatred, intolerance and discrimination.
- 3 **Command climate awareness.** Commanders periodically must assess their specific unit's human relations readiness climate in order to contextualize HRRT to the unit's mission and personnel dimensions of living and working together.
- 4 **Building Soldier skills.** HRRT empowers all personnel to do the right thing.
- 5 **Values.** HRRT incorporates values essential to Armed Forces readiness, with "Dignity and Respect for All" as the foundational HR value.

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3rd COSCOM HR/EOA

Sgt. 1st Class Ingram  
(829-2079)  
159th CAB HR/EOA

Sgt. 1st Class Bigman  
(829-1143)  
19th Support Center EOR

Sgt. 1st Class Williams  
(673-5122)  
101st SB HR/EOA

Sgt. 1st Class Holland  
(834-3314)  
4th SB HR/EOA

Maj. Goldsborough  
(Talil, Iraq)  
1/34th BCT

Sgt. 1st Class Bowen  
(829-1834)  
35th ASG EOR

Sgt. 1st Class Patronas  
(829-2408)  
130th ENG Bde. HR/EOA

Staff Sgt. Burton  
(829-3111)  
27th Trans. Bn. EOR

Sgt. 1st Class McDonough  
(833-1010)  
16th CSG HR/EOA

Sgt. Maj. Shields  
(829-1924)  
40th CSG EOR

Sgt. 1st Class Sarraga-Nieves  
(826-6896)  
64th CSG HR/EOA

Capt. Menza  
(443-6037)  
Air Force MEO





Story and Photos by Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta



## *The Library Project*

“A library cannot be constructed,”  
said Nicholas A. Basbanes, author,  
journalist and world chronicler from  
Boston, quoting a Scottish Historian,  
“it is the growth of ages.”

Understanding the need for books for Soldiers and Iraqis in Balad, 3rd Corps Support Command, with the help of World War II veterans, Boy Scouts and individual American volunteers, opened the doors to growth and knowledge and 3,000 books during the Halbert and Red Circle Library opening ceremony inside the Black Jack Education Center at Logistical Support Area Anaconda Mar. 16.

Guests and key leaders came to the library opening to welcome the LSA Anaconda public and describe the significance of this library in Balad.

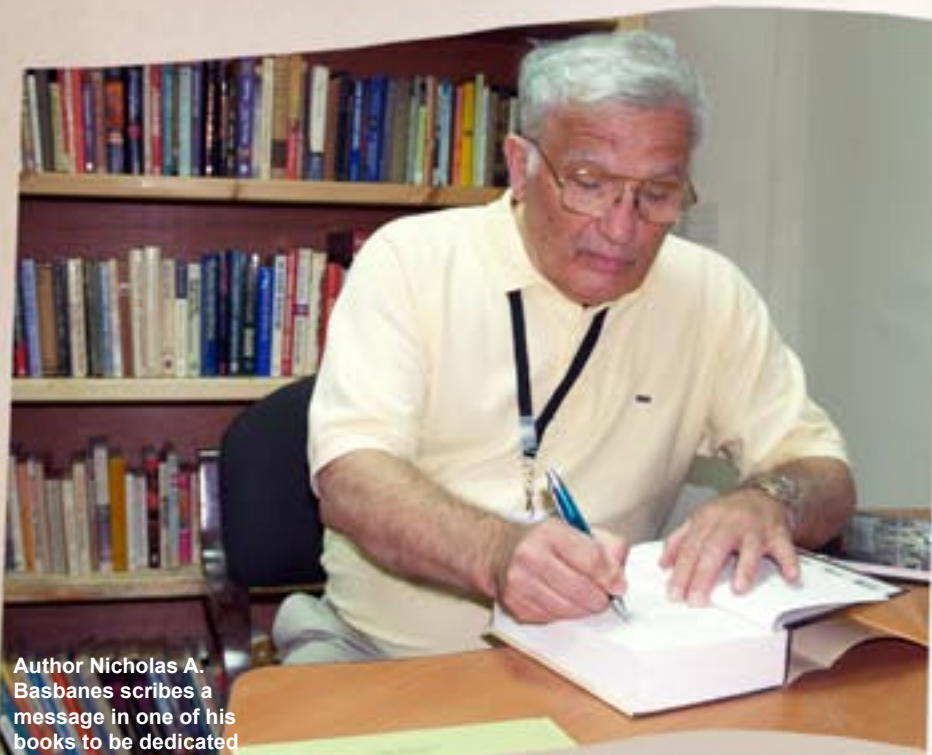
“This is just an extraordinary opportunity to do what I have written five books about – celebrations of books, book people, book culture, and libraries,” said Basbanes who said he was proud to speak at the library opening.

“These books make a connection for Soldiers,” said Col. Susan Sowers, the 3rd COSCOM Chief of Staff, at the library opening. “They [Soldiers] may find an interest that they never knew they had. Whatever motivates you its available.”

In addition to providing books for Soldiers, the 3rd COSCOM hopes to benefit the local community with the books as well.

The Halibert & Red Circle Memorial Library





Author Nicholas A. Basbanes scribes a message in one of his books to be dedicated to the new library.



Col. Susan Sowers, 3rd COSCOM Chief of Staff, delivers a speech during the opening ceremony.

"There is an appetite and hunger for the English language among Iraqis," said McNerney. "For example, doctors and people in the medical profession have to use English because it is the language of medicine so there is a natural community that hungers for English. Under Sadaam there wasn't ready access to general Western Literature or ideas – it wasn't allowed."

Eventually, the library and all its books will be handed over to the Iraqis, said McNerney.

3rd COSCOM is extending the mission beyond the confines of Balad to the surrounding Forward Operating Bases in Iraq as well.

Books will be sent on convoys as gifts to Soldiers, said Col. Jan-nett N. Jackson, the 40th Corps Support Group Commander, at the ceremony while holding a small cardboard box representative of the many other boxes of paperback books ready for distribution.

However, we are only seeing the end portion of this project here today, said Jackson.

The project to make books available to Soldiers and Iraqis through the Halbert and Red Circle Library began in Germany one year ago as an idea inspired by World War II veterans, explained Col. Mark W. Hampton, the 35th Area Support Group Commander, who summarized the events that brought the books to Iraq during the ceremony.

While interviewing veterans at the 60th anniversary of the end of the war in March 2005, Lt. Col. Brian C. McNerney, the 3rd COSCOM Public Affairs Officer, learned how American troops stationed in Germany introduced Germans to an American style of democracy simply by providing books, said McNerney.

Months later, upon arriving at his duty station in Balad, McNerney reportedly said there were limited books available for the more than 20,000 Soldiers stationed in Balad to read.

McNerney saw an opportunity for veterans to impact the world as they had done roughly 50 years ago in Germany.

"It occurred to me that one way they [veterans] could make a difference is if they took on a mission to collect books for Soldiers," he said.

Veterans were enthusiastic about the idea and immediately spread the word – a course of action that would "snowball to unbelievable results," predicted Robert Patton, a veteran of the 65th Infantry Division, in an email to McNerney in December 2005.

In February 2006, Patton initiated a book drive in Chapel Hill, N.C. area that raked in close to 10,000 books, according to an email from Patton.

Members of the American Legion Post 6, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9100, Boy Scout Troop 39, 40 & Eight Voiture, the Vietnam veteran motorcycle group: "Rolling Thunder," and several other volunteers stacked, packed and sent the books to the transportation branch





Spc. Mary Ferguson poses for a photo with a Chapel Hill Legion veteran during initial book collections in N.C.



Lt. Col. Brian McNerney, 3rd COSCOM PAO, presents Col. Jannett Jackson, the 40th CSG commander with a box of books.

chief at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. to be shipped overseas, according to a report by the North Carolina Legion News.

About four weeks later, many of the books arrived in Iraq.

Almost immediately, volunteers from the 3rd COSCOM and the 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment began to sort and organize the books onto solid wood bookshelves made by the Department of Public Works on the LSA.

In four months, a fully functional library was established with about 6,000 to 7,000 more books on the way, said Hampton during the ceremony as he stood amidst bookshelves with little or no space left for additional books.

At the close of the library opening ceremony, Sowers presented Spc. Mary E. Ferguson, a 3rd COSCOM public affairs specialist who spent a portion of her Rest and Recovery leave in her hometown, Chapel Hill, N.C., helping veterans collect and package books, with two awards which she accepted on behalf of the veterans and boy scouts who participated in the book drive.

Also, 3rd COSCOM dedicated the library to the Soldiers of the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions whose veterans predominantly supported the project, said McNerney.

"This is a project that shows the Iraqi people what really is in the hearts of Americans," said McNerney.

McNerney planned to relay this message to the Iraqi public through Iraqi media member Kaym Maytham at the ceremony; however, Maytham was unable to attend.

"I wanted an Iraqi – one of the ultimate recipients of these books – to be here, understand this and be able to explain this [event] to Iraqis," said McNerney.

Though Maytham was not able to attend the ceremony, he is scheduled to come to the LSA in the near future, said McNerney – at which point McNerney plans to show him the library.

The library mission has grown into a massive combined effort allowing WWII veterans, Boy Scouts and volunteers to share a wealth of books with Soldiers and Iraqis. Now that 3rd COSCOM has officially established the "connection" to the Soldiers and Iraqis in Balad, future hopes, dreams and aspirations may be limited only by the world of ideas available to them now.

When you look around, you see it's not Harvard and its 15 million volumes, and it's not the Library of Congress and its 30 million volumes but it is the Halbert and Red Circle Library in Balad and it has 3,000 books on day one, said Basbanes.

The library will continue to grow as follow-on shipments of books arrive. For now, 3,000 books are an inspiring beginning.





Photo by Spc. Matthis Chiroux



By Nancy Marquardt

## Linking Generations

Eight 7th Corps Support Group Soldiers and a member of the USAREUR Army Band met with many of our nation's heroes March 21 when they participated in a commemorative ceremony honoring veterans from the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions in Passau, Germany.

The relationships forged between the Soldiers and their World War II counterparts confirmed that Soldiers of all generations share a common bond in the successes and challenges they face. A similar meeting last year sparked the explosion of patriotism that laid the foundation for the recent opening of the Halbert and Red Circle Memorial Library on Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq.

Handpicked by 7th CSG Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Tennant to perform color guard duties at the event were noncommissioned officer in charge Staff Sgt. Assane Gueye, Staff Sgt. Felix Marbury, Spc. Dionisio Dossantos, Cpl. Brian Yoder and Pfc. Christopher King, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Company; and Staff Sgt. Reginald Bell and Sgt. Douglas Vaskey, from the 240th Quartermaster Company. 7th CSG Chaplain (Maj.) Joel Russell and USA-REUR Army Band bugler Staff Sgt. Stephen Miles completed the special unit assigned to the tribute mission.

World War II historian and author Anna Rosmus, who grew up in Passau, arranged the ceremony. Rosmus spent much of the past decade researching the roles the 71st and 65th played in liberating prisoners from Nazi concentration camps near her small hometown. The ceremony, held at the ancient Mariahilf convent overlooking the city, was one of several she coordinated to honor the veterans during a two-week tour of Danube River Valley.

Rosmus said, "I wanted a just tribute to these liberators for the sacrifices they made to free those who were held captive by an unjust tyrant. After all these years, I wanted them recognized for their heroic acts."

Gueye and his special unit provided an impressive U.S. military image throughout the ceremony. The Soldiers, with polished

silver helmets reflecting the light of a 300-year old crystal, gold-gilded chandelier overhead, respectfully offered an outstretched arm as they marched each one down the convent aisle.

The ceremony commenced with the posting of the colors followed with prayers by both Mariahilf convent priest Father Mirko and Chaplain Russell. Veterans who spoke about their six-decade-old experiences represented both divisions. The event ended with the poignant playing of "Taps" and retiring of the colors.

At the reception and gala dinner that followed the Soldiers listened as the veterans shared stories of discovering mass graves where bodies were stacked like cordwood, and ensuring a proper military burial for the thousands who had suffered such indignity in death.

The young Soldiers discovered that in their time, these veterans had endured deployments lasting three years or more with no furlough. Veteran Stephen Mahoney explained, "Once you shipped out with a unit, you stayed with that unit until you all went home together. We didn't have periodic redeployments and R & R like they do today."

Mickey Dorsey, a former 71st Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop gunner and radio commander for the 71st Infantry Division, and one of the most lively and animated veterans on the trip, easily connected with the young Soldiers. After staying up until after 1 a.m. sharing military poetry and stories with the group, Dorsey was the first one up and out the following morning. Marbury said, "I want to be Mickey when I grow up."

Whether through the creation of a down-range library in Iraq, or through the bonds birthed during the memorial weekend in Germany, 3rd COSCOM Soldiers joined these distinguished veterans during the month of March in illustrating the underlying tie that exists among Soldiers of all generations.



## Visit highlights multiple missions

Photo/Story by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux, 207th MPAD

Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, commander of the 3rd Corps Support Command, made a March visit to the 3rd COSCOM Soldiers at Camp Taji, Iraq.

"The purpose of my visit was to visit Soldiers and leaders and see what great things they are doing down here," Halstead said.

The general and a group of her officers met U.S. troops, Iraqi Security Force soldiers and a civilian contractor who provides maintenance services for ISF vehicles as she was escorted by Col. Gustave Perna, 4th Sustainment Brigade commander. The 4th SB is a subordinate unit of 3rd COSCOM in theater and provides training and logistics support for several Iraqi entities on Taji as they become more independent.

Halstead's first stop was at one of the Iraqi Army's Regional Support Units, which is in the process of being activated. She received a detailed brief from Col. Paul D. Linkenhoker, the senior advisor for the RSU and his Iraqi counterparts, who briefed Halstead with the assistance of an interpreter. The RSU currently focuses on three main areas, which are force protection, life support and base reconstruction.

"I think they are doing an excellent job," said Linkenhoker, about the Iraqi leaders he works with.

Halstead then visited the 1st Motorized Transportation Regiment who is partnered with the 4th SB.

"I found them to be disciplined, organized, and enthusiastic . . . you could see they had a lot of energy," Halstead said.

"They want to do well. They are very open in their conversation," she said. "The Iraqi leaders were very open to dialogue and sharing their progress."

"Taji had a lot of success," said Maj. Timothy S. Kishel, 3rd COSCOM ISF support operations officer, who was one of the visitors.

After enjoying lunch at the 'Wrangler Inn,' Halstead checked on the National Maintenance Contract facility.

The NMC has been providing maintenance support for Iraqi army vehicles since May.

To put money into the economy, NMC employs local nationals and purchases some of its replacement parts locally.

Since the facility will be managed by the Iraqi Army, U.S. servicemembers are assigned to the facility to provide support and guidance.



Brig Gen. Rebecca Halstead, 3rd COSCOM Commander, visits the 1st MTR at Camp Taji March 7.

One of them is Master Sgt. Robert Lewis from the Special Troops Battalion, 4th SB, who was presented with the Samuel Sharpe Award, from the Ordnance Corps Association, by Halstead. The award is given to recognize individuals who serve in the ordnance corps with demonstrated integrity, moral character and professional competence over a sustained period of time.

The visitors then had the chance to meet with Soldiers of the 189th Corps Support Battalion.

Capt. Charles Kean, the commander of C Battery, 1-377th Field Artillery, proudly stood by one of the vehicles his unit uses for its missions as a medium truck company.

The unit installed side lights, spot lights, sirens and other improvements. These changes give Soldiers additional tools that assist them in resolving possible issues the right way, following the proper steps for escalation of force, Kean explained.

Halstead also had an opportunity to see the Combat Convoy Fire Fighting System for the first time. The system was developed by civilian fire fighters and adapted for military use in combat logistics patrols (CLPs).

The final stop of the tour was the 189th CSB's sand table and briefing facility which is used to conduct CLP briefings for Soldiers going off post. Halstead spoke highly of the facility.

"That is going to be a total success out on the road," she said.

When asked what the highlight of her visit was Halstead said, "Listening to a private first class brief intel. I love it! The future of the Army is in such great hands, when you have private first classes giving you briefings. It is awesome."

## 4th SB Instills Independence

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons, 4th SB Public Affairs

Like parents waiting for their children to return from the first day of school, members of the Military Transition Team assigned to work with the Iraqi 1st Motorized Truck Regiment waved and cheered as their protégés returned from a supply-delivery mission to the 6th Iraqi army division March 23.

But not just any mission; this venture marked the first time that the Iraqi unit operated independently from the 4th Sustainment Brigade, its American de facto higher headquarters.

"We're very proud of them," said Maj. Earl Mack, team chief, 1st MTR MiTT, assigned to the brigade. "They trained hard. They were so excited, I don't even know if they slept last night."

"There was very minimal U.S. input," said Capt. Anthony DeStefano, MiTT liaison officer with the brigade's Special Troops Battalion, speaking of the mission. "They did the route selection and planning, determined their start-point time, and coordinated for a link-up with the Iraqis on the other end."

The operation was the culmination of months of efforts from the 4th SB's Taji-based battalions: the STB and 189th Corps Support Battalion.

Working in tandem, the STB and 189th Corps Support Battalion have been working in separate areas to develop the 1st MTR into a competent force.

"Our role as the STB is to assist in mission planning and coordination," said Lt. Col. William Schiek, STB commander. "The MiTT is under our tactical control and we're providing the function as the MTR's higher headquarters, assigning missions and helping with maintenance."

"The 189th helps with driver's training and provides intel to the MiTT," said Lt. Col. Lenny Kness, 189th commander, speaking of his role with the MTR. "The other thing we do is the uparmoring of the [Iraqi] vehicles."

Working with their American counterparts, the Iraqi soldiers have worked alongside mechanics and welders here on Camp Taji to learn how to support these vehicles.

## Welcome Home

Story/Photo by Spc. Andrew Orillion

Applause echoed and cameras flashed March 10, as family and friends officially welcomed back Soldiers from the 26th Quartermaster Company of the 485th Corps Support Battalion and the 619th Movement Control Team of the 27th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control).

"Thank you all for coming out to celebrate the return of the mighty logistics warriors of the 26th Quartermaster Company and the 619th Movement Control Team," said 7th Corps Support Group Commander Col. Catherine Haight during the welcome home ceremony.

The 26th QM Co. returned from a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, while the 619th MCT returned from An-Nasiriyah, Iraq where they supported Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While the 26th QM Co. was holding down the fort in Afghanistan, the Soldiers of the 619th MCT were busy providing support for OIF.

"They provided the highway regulation function of movement control and in transit visibility for all convoys moving through the area," Haight said.

The 619th MCT coordinated traffic flow to prevent convoy stacking and to move convoys efficiently.



Soldiers from the 619th Movement Control Team salute during the unit's official welcome home ceremony March 10 in Germany.

"This was accomplished for more than 7,700 convoys, an average of more than 20 per day, with more than 190,000 vehicles and 250,000 Soldiers," Haight said.

She also acknowledged the work of the men and women on the home front.

"There were home repairs, car repairs, sports teams, scout meetings, bible studies, hundreds of meals, a gazillion loads of laundry, science projects, history papers, trips to the commissary and on and on," Haight said. "And did I mention that the kids kept growing while all this was happening?"

## 26th QM Home Again

"Out of the frying pan and into the fire," is an apt description of the last three years for the 26th Quartermaster Company of the 485th Corps Support Battalion.

"Shortly after returning from a brilliant year of mission accomplishment in OIF 1, 26th Quartermaster was informed that it would return to the fray—but this time it would be in Afghanistan," said Col. Catherine Haight, 7th Corps Support Group commander, during the unit's welcome home ceremony March 10.

The 26th QM Co. returned home to Germany Jan. 16, after a year deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was the unit's second deployment, having previously deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003.

In support of OEF, the 26th QM Co. provided logistical support from multiple locations in Afghanistan including Bagram Air Base, Forward Operating Base Salerno, and

Mazar-e Shariff as well as Karshi-Kanabad in Uzbekistan.

Fuel farms run by the 26th QM Co. in Jalalabad, Farah, and Naray supplied more than 15 million gallons of fuel to troops in Afghanistan while the warehouse in Salerno contained more than 1,800 items.

"In addition to our regular duties, we had to do entry control point duty which is usually reserved for combat arms Soldiers," said Capt. Kristopher Pataboy, 26th QM Co. company commander.

The 26th QM Co. also completed humanitarian aid missions. The unit maintained and ran a humanitarian warehouse containing more than 12,000 bundles of much needed supplies.

The bundles were in demand in October 2005, when a massive earthquake devastated parts of nearby Pakistan.

In April the 26th QM Co.'s mortuary affairs team was called into action after

a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed in a sandstorm near Ghazni, Afghanistan, killing 18 Soldiers.

Many of the 26th QM Co.'s Soldiers served in both OIF and OEF. Most agree that OEF was the less stressful of the two deployments. Although less stressful, being in Afghanistan was no picnic.

"OEF was a bit more laid back and a lot less dangerous," said Sgt. First Class Mario Perez, platoon sergeant for the petroleum, oil and lubricant section. "But the job was more challenging because the unit was spread out."

With its footprint stretching from Italy to Afghanistan, Pataboy was most impressed with how much the 26th QM Co. accomplished and how well it adapted to its various tasks.

For Haight, and the families back home, the 26th QM Co.'s greatest accomplishment lay in its perfect redeployment rate. Every Soldier who left made it back alive.



# 64th CSG

Photos by SPC Fabian Ortega



(left) 64th CSG Soldiers deliver humanitarian supplies to the displaced person's camp in Operation Sayaid. (above) Several babies were born in the displaced person's camp.



# "DOWNRANGE" SCRAPBOOK

## Operation Iraqi Children

Story  
and  
Photo  
by  
Spc. David  
Chapman

Beyond the bombs and the bad guys of Iraq there are positive things happening here. The "smallest" of the challenges to be overcome is the education of the Iraqi children, making sure that the kids who want to attend school have the resources needed to make it possible.

Operation Iraqi Children was a program developed by actor Gary Sinise and author Laura Hillenbrand. This program was developed to make sure that with the help of giving Americans kids in Iraq will be able to attend school with all the supplies needed to make an appropriate learning environment.

This mission started when Soldiers began visiting school that had been neglected under the Saddam regime. The Soldiers were witnessing students who had none of the basic necessities for a school to be run well.

"Imagine sending your child to a school in which there are virtually no books, no pencils, no paper, no blackboards," Hillenbrand says on the Operation Iraqi Children website.

To combat this situation Soldiers used their resources of family, friends and churches to gain donations. The Soldiers would then use their time off from regular duties to deliver the items to the children.

Fortunately, through kind hearts and generous spirits, an immense amount of donations began arriving.

The problem became apparent that there were many schools to cover with just a small number of people.

After Sinise made a visit to Iraq and viewed the turmoil, he decided it was time for this to become an organized operation. And Operation Iraqi Children was born.

"I started a project to send school supplies to Iraq because I saw a tremendous need for them when I visited one of the schools and became aware that this was the norm for most of the schools in Iraq," said Sinise in statement.

Logistical Support Area Anaconda and the 3rd Corps Support Command have been an important part of how OIC is able to operate in a combat region.

"At LSA Anaconda we assist with the logistics, to identify the needs of our Multi-National Division," said Maj. Patrick Howard, 3rd COSCOM Deputy G-5. "We do the leg work."

"Once LSA Anaconda gets all the supplies here from Kansas City we start shipping them out to different areas in our area of operation," added Howard. "We get the supplies out by land and air to the units around the LSA."

A large portion of what is given to the units consists of kits assembled and donated by Americans. The kits contain simple items like scissors, rulers, pencils, erasers, composition books and packages of notebook paper.

"It is a beautiful way to begin a relationship with the future leaders of Iraq," Sinise said. "They have been forgotten for so long. Now there is a chance for them."



## Omar

Photos by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

Omar Sabbah is a 3-year-old Iraqi boy who was badly burned and injured during a December car accident near a U.S. checkpoint in Mosul. He was medevaced to LSA Anaconda where he received treatment for several months, winning the hearts of the hospital staff and everybody else he met. (above, right) Col. Jannett Jackson, the 40th CSG Commander visits Omar at the Balad Hospital. (above, left) Maj. Manuel Wong, 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs office, escorts Omar and his father to Baghdad after he was released from the Balad Hospital.

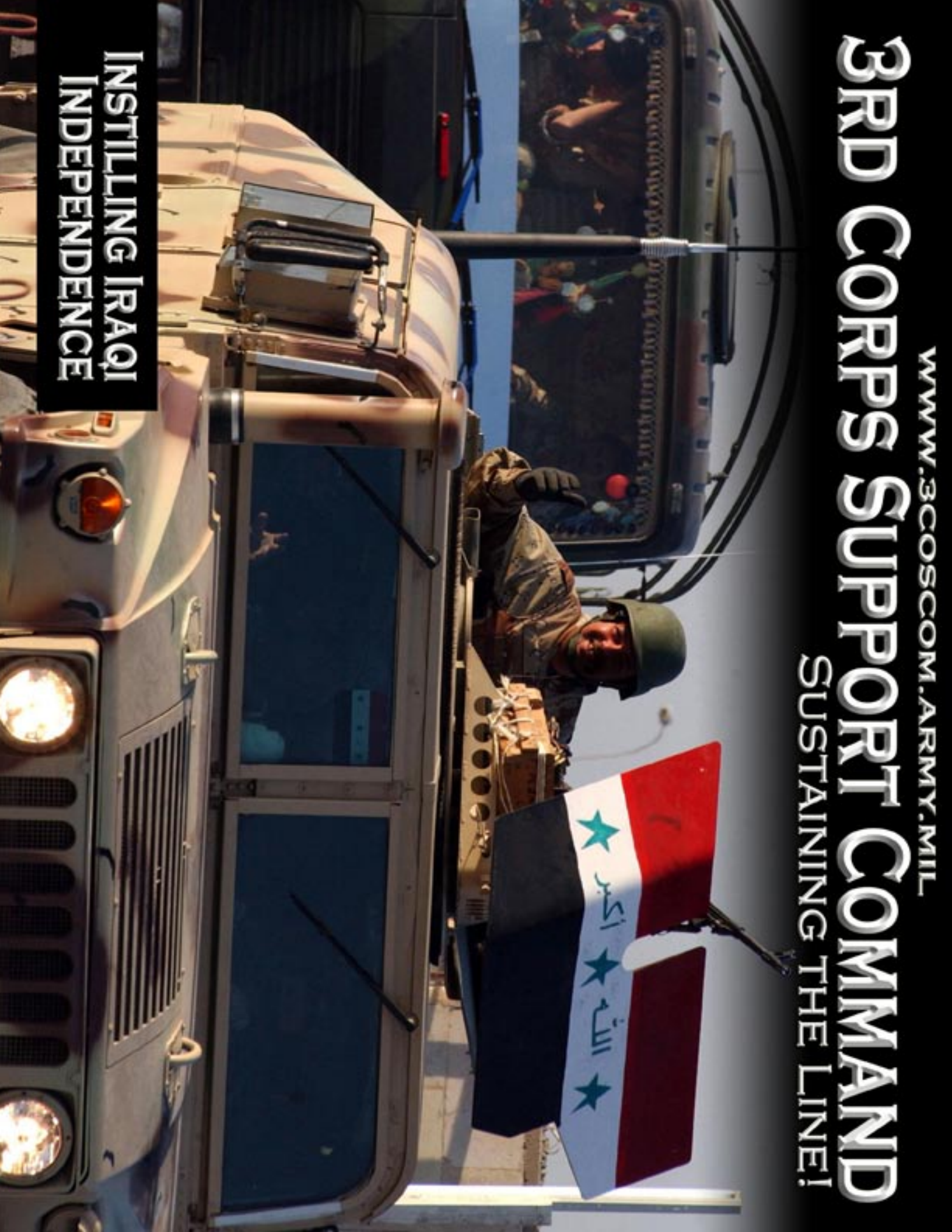




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# 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND

SUSTAINING THE LINE!



INSTILLING IRAQI  
INDEPENDENCE